

REMARKS

The Office Action of 06/10/2004 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the specification and claims have been Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The claims and specification were objected to for various informalities. These have been addressed by the present amendment.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the present invention and is now believed to meet the requirements of definiteness. With respect to the "omitted structural cooperative relationships" noted in the Office Action, such relationships, to the extent not already implicit in the language of the claims, are omitted because they either do not exist or are not essential to an understanding of the claims. If upon reconsideration of amended claim 1 the Examiner has remaining concerns in this regard, a telephone interview to address this point is respectfully requested.


The claims were rejected as being anticipated by Patel. Claim 1 as amended is believed to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, referring to Figure 4 of Patel, the syndrome modification arrangement illustrated is not believed to combine a remainder syndrome for a block (calculated over less than all the sub-blocks) with a partial syndrome for the block (also calculated over less than all the sub-blocks) to obtain a complete syndrome for the block, the complete syndrome being that syndrome obtained by applying the error protection code to the block including all sub-blocks thereof. In particular, Patel is not believed to teach or suggest either a remainder syndrome or a partial syndrome as presently claimed. The unmodified syndrome in Patel is a complete syndrome, and the modified syndrome in Patel is also a complete syndrome.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to patentably define over Patel.

Dependent claims 2-10 and 13-15 are also believed to add novel and patentable subject matter to independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-10 and 13-15 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Ure", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: August 31, 2004